

to this picturesque country. The utilization of all available soil and the use of flower boxes is still in vogue in the present day.

#### THE EICHSTOCK CHURCH

It was the custom of the Mennonites, on occasions when they migrated to a new location, to hold church services in each others homes until such a time that a sufficient number of families moved into the area to make it advisable to build a church. The group in this area was known as the "Eichstock Congregation". From a family history written by Barbara Strohm Ruth we learn that David Ruth served as minister for this group as early as 1837. The exact date of his entry into the ministry and the date he began serving the Eichstock Congregation is not known.

In May of the year of 1841, sixteen families that comprised the Eichstock Congregation began building a church, completed it and dedicated it on the fourteenth day of November of that same year. The Church was built upon the estate of David Ruth who also was their minister. A picture of the Church, showing the minister standing in the foreground, is shown at the end of this article. A Church-yard burial ground was situated next to the Church, in which several of the Ruth family members are interred.

The group of people who belonged to the Eichstock Congregation at that time migrated to America almost enmasse. Family records give evidence that they left in several groups over the period of years from 1851 to 1856, the largest group migrating in 1852.

The Maxweiler group, who settled along the Danube River near Neuberg located some twenty five miles to the north of Eichstock, lost a large number of their young people through emigration to America about the same time. After so many of the younger people left, the older folks were no longer satisfied and decided to follow their children. The remaining members left

almost enmasse along with their Eichstock brethren with whom they were closely affiliated from the very beginning. According to information found in family records, the last of the Maxweiler group to emigrate to America was the Jacob Dahlem-Veronica Ruth family who arrived in Summerfield, Illinois on the twenty fourth day of May in the year of 1856.

#### THE URGE TO MIGRATE TO AMERICA

In a short period of a few years the families all grew so rapidly that the agricultural and industrial facilities were not keeping pace with the increasing population with the net result that it was beginning to become quite a problem to find homes for those of their members reaching a marriageable age. Those who could not find a home could not get married and this condition was very discouraging for the young folks. It was reaching the point where it was necessary for families to move to surrounding villages that were a considerable distance from their own community in an effort to establish a home. Informative letters from relatives and close friends who had already migrated to this country and established their homes, told of the many opportunities available here, plus the fact that they would be guaranteed religious freedom, was a great inducement to the young folks and they began to think seriously of migrating to this country.

With some families this migration fever seemed to include only the young folks, the older folks having given them their sanction, but, when the older folks learned of the great numbers of their younger people who were planning on going, they decided to join the group rather than be left behind in Upper Bavaria.

It was a different story with the seven families of the children of Gerhard Ruth and Elizabeth Rupp. Being a close knit group, they were planning to come to this country enmasse. A check of their emigration permits gives us proof of this. They were giving the

plan some serious thought but needed an impetus that would give them the courage to leave their home land in which they enjoyed a peaceful and serene life for a great many years.

The year of 1848 was one in which many political changes took place in all of the sections and cities of Germany and Bavaria, some of which were of such a nature that they affected the lives of these people. These changes did not necessarily cause the group to make their final decision to migrate to this country but it did instill a greater urge to do so, with the net result that they gave some additional thought to complete and carry out their well laid plans.

On the thirteenth of February in the year of 1851 Johannes Krehbiel of the Eichstock Congregation sold his property and started preparations to migrate to this country. On March the twenty first of this same year, he and his family, together with several other relatives and friends comprising a total of eighteen persons, started their long journey to this country.

The loss of this family from their midst supplied the necessary impetus that caused this group to make their final decision to migrate to this country. The entire group seemed to act as a unit, offering their property for sale with the hope that they would soon find a buyer so they could leave for this country as soon as possible.

#### THE MIGRATION TO AMERICA

#### LEE COUNTY, IOWA

Henry Ruth, son of Jacob Ruth and Barbara Strohm, got his permit to emigrate to America in the year of 1851 and went along with the Krehbiel family. He and Christian Krehbiel were very close friends and often talked about going to America, so much in fact, that the two of them made an agreement to go together, if such an opportunity ever presented itself. They were

a happy pair of youngsters when they became aware of the fact that their youthful dreams were to become a reality with the full sanction of their parents.

1851

Henry Ruth, who in later years acquired the title "Squire Henry Ruth", was the first of this branch of the Ruth family to emigrate to America. He came over with the Krehbiel family to make their first home in this country in West Point, Lee County, Iowa.

1852

During a short period of time covering about five weeks beginning the first of February in the year of 1852, the following families sold their property.

David Ruth of Eichstock.

Johannes Ruth of Eichstock.

Barbara Ruth, widow of Jacob Ruth of Harreszell.

John Weber of Einsassen.

Jacob Krehbiel of Obererlach.

Jacob Leisy, who had sold his property in June, 1851 and waited for the above mentioned families, brought the total to six families awaiting an opportunity to start their long journey to America.

While searching European records for family data, we found records of the following emigration permits for which documentary proof can be established. They all listed the United States of America as the place of emigration.

Henry Ruth, Single; 1851.

David Ruth with wife and 8 children; 5-4-1852.

Johannes Ruth with wife and 6 children; 5-4-1852.

Barbara Ruth, widow, with 5 children; 5-4-1852.

Marie Dahlem, Single; 5-13-1852.

Johannes Dahlem and brother Henry; to Iowa; 1852.

Katherine Dahlem, with relatives; to Iowa; 1852.

The relatives, in this case, included her children. We do not have the data on the permits of the other branches of the family because no special effort was made to obtain them, but we are most certain that it is possible to get documentary proof of them too.

It is to be born in mind that in checking back on the dates of the emigration permits, it is possible to find certain discrepancies in connection with the dates, brought about by the fact that the family was unable to get their business in order in time or the party wanted to wait until another family was ready to join them on their long journey to America.

On May the twenty eighth in the year of 1852, the families of David and Johannes Ruth left their homes in Eichstock to start their long journey to America. As they crossed Bavaria they picked up other members of the group at certain points along the way, making the last addition at Worms to bring the total number of persons in their group to seventy two souls. They continued on to Le Harve where they boarded the Ship "Samuel M. Fox", landing at Port of New York after a fifty two day trip on the ocean.

On July the eighteenth, a little over five weeks later, the families of John Weber and Barbara Strohm Ruth Kraemer boarded the Ship "Saint Nicolas", landing at Port of New York on August the twenty third. Barbara Strohm Ruth was the widow of Jacob Ruth, she married John Kraemer a short time before leaving for America. Both of these families planned to be in the first group but were unable to get ready in time, so they had to sail on a later date.

Both groups went to West Point, Lee County, Iowa, but the route each one took was different. The first group arrived on August the twenty third, the second arrived on September the twenty second. Full details of both trips are given elsewhere in this history so they are not repeated here.

1853

On the seventh day of January, David Ruth and his family moved to the farm they bought on the Franklin Prairie.

On the twenty seventh day of January, John Ruth and his family moved to the farm they bought on the Franklin Prairie.

On the twenty ninth day of January, John Kraemer bought a farm on the Franklin Prairie and moved onto it with his family on the eighth of February.

On May the twenty ninth, Johannes Dahlem and his family came from Bavaria. The family went to Summerfield, Illinois and then moved to Minooka, Illinois.

On May the thirtieth, Peter Strohm and his family arrived from Bavaria.

1854

On June the sixth, Franz Hahn, together with his wife and family and Christian Deutsch, with his wife and family, arrived in Iowa from Bavaria.

1855

On the first of September, Maria Berger, daughter of Samuel Berger and Elizabeth Berger, Nee Kinkel, arrived from Bavaria.

#### THE MIGRATION TO ILLINOIS

1856

On the eleventh of April, John Kraemer, together with his wife and her children, started on the trip to their farm in Illinois. They arrived in St. Louis on the fifteenth and found Henry Ruth and Jacob Vogt awaiting them. They left Iowa on the thirty first of March, twelve days earlier. From St. Louis the trip was made by horse and wagon. After stopping several times to visit relatives, they arrived at their home on the seventeenth.

In April, Franz Hahn came to Summerfield with his wife and family and opened a Cooper Shop in town.

On the twenty fourth of May, Jacob Dahlem and his family came to Summerfield from Bavaria.

On June the ninth, Gerhard Vogt and John Brandt came to Summerfield from Iowa.

On the twenty second day of June, Samuel Berger, together with his wife Elizabeth and their children, came to Summerfield from Bavaria. Their three oldest children, Katherine, John and Maria had been here in



America for some time. Katherine and John came along with the Johannes Krehbiel family in 1851 and Maria came over with the John Rupp family in 1855.

1857-1858

Early in November in the year of 1858, Daniel and David Ruth came to Summerfield to learn the Cabinet making trade from Gerhard Vogt.

1859

On the tenth of March in the year of 1859, David Ruth went to Summerfield, Illinois to buy a farm and took an option to buy the Wakefield place just north of town. He was so sure of closing this deal that he bought four lots in town for the purpose of building upon them at some future date.

During the month of May of that same year, David Ruth authorized his son-in-law Christian Krehbiel to act as his agent and sent him to Summerfield to take up the option and close the deal. After he had taken care of the necessary business and closed the deal, Christian Krehbiel returned to his home in Iowa.

1860

On the thirteenth of March in the year of 1860, David Lehmann and his bride, together with Christian Krehbiel and his family, left Lee County, Iowa to go to Illinois to take possession of the new farm.

In the summer of the year of 1860, Jacob Krehbiel and his family moved to Summerfield. His wife was a daughter of Johannes Ruth and Elizabeth Dettweiler.

1865

In the spring of the year of 1865, David Ruth and his family moved to Summerfield, Illinois from Iowa.

1870

At this time, most of the descendants of the Ruth family were living in Illinois. The John Ruth family with the exception of Daniel and Barbara came to the Summerfield area in 1871. Daniel and his family came in 1872. Barbara, who was married to Daniel Eymann, remained in Iowa with her family and Jacob D. Weber, of the John Weber-Marie Ruth branch did the same.

At this point we wish to mention that the arrival of the Ruth family in Illinois was not brought about by mere chance or a haphazard guess, it was the net result of a well organized plan that was carried out almost to perfection.

It was when this group first thought of migrating to this country that Jacob Leisy made a special trip to the United States for the sole purpose of finding a suitable location for them to establish their new homes. How much territory he covered and how long it took him to do it is not known but from the data and information we located, he made a very comprehensive investigation and decided that the location in Saint Clair County, Illinois was by far the most suitable.

He based his decision on: weather conditions, the type and condition of the soil, general terrain, the geographical location and a nearby market to dispose of their produce and for purchasing necessities they could not raise or make themselves. Judging from the improvements and advancements made in the area since they first settled there, his decision was certainly a very wise and prudent one.

John Kraemer who married Barbara Strohm Ruth (the widow of Jacob Ruth who died at Harreszell, Bavaria) shortly before the group started on their migration journey, spent several years in this country and the home-site he chose was in this same area. During the intervening time, a Kraemer family, related to John, made their home in this area about ten miles east of Saint Louis. Having been able to get some first hand information about this area probably had quite a bit of influence on the group in making this their first and final choice for their home-sites.

But for the occurrence of two separate incidents, the migration journey would have been made according to their original well made plans. The first one was that the original plan for the family to come in one group in the year of 1852 did not materialize due to the fact that some of them could not transact all of

their business in time. Two groups came in 1852, two in 1853, two in 1854 and the last one came in 1856.

The second one was a change of plans upon arrival at Peoria, Illinois where they learned that cholera, prevalent in the area they wished to go, had reached the epidemic stage. The group held a consultation on the subject matter and after due consideration, made a decision to proceed to Lee County, Iowa instead of the location in Illinois they had chosen originally. Some of the families in this group established their homes in Iowa and resided there for many years, some of their descendants live there to this day.

The Ruth families established their homes in Iowa too but kept in contact with the Illinois area. They took advantage of the first opportunity to purchase some land in Saint Clair County and moved there from their Iowa locations as soon as conditions permitted them to do so.

As soon as this one branch of the Ruth family had established their home near the town of Summerfield, members of the other branches began to move into the town and into the area within a fifteen mile radius. It took but a short time for the area to prosper and the town of Summerfield became it's business center. Relatives and friends who passed through here on the way to the west from the eastern part of the country and those going east for a visit, used this area for a stop-over point, resting for a few days before the journey was resumed. In those days many of the homes doubled as a Hotel and Boarding House.

From the time the Mennonite Church of Summerfield was organized in 1859 until about the year of 1980, there was an increase in the amount of homes used to accommodate guests. It was brought about by the vast number of Mennonite immigrants coming from Europe to make their new homes in Kansas and Nebraska. Quite a number of these people stopped off at Summerfield to rest and obtain information about the procurement of home-sites in Kansas before resuming their journey.

## THE FAMILY IN ILLINOIS

Due to the number of persons in the Ruth families who lived in and around Summerfield at this time, it would take too long to give the detailed information on where and how long each one of them lived on some certain farm or home in the Summerfield area.

As the children grew up and reached marriageable age, the ability of finding farms for them was quite a problem because the area was now well settled and there was little or no room for further expansion.

By 1870 there was quite a bit of discussion about the new opportunities offered in the State of Kansas that had been admitted to the Union in 1861.

In the fall of the year of 1871, a small group of men in Summerfield formed a scouting party to travel westward for the purpose of locating a suitable spot for buying land and to form a new Mennonite Colony. Family tradition states that the group travelled via covered wagon and on horse-back, carrying their own victuals and camping out along the way. It took them over two months to complete the trip. We were unable to find any data from which we could take the names of all the members of this party. The only name that we could find was that of John Krehbiel, husband of Katherine Ruth, who withstood the rigors of the trip very well until some time after they had made a part of their homeward journey. He contracted an illness and died near Donnellson, Iowa on the twenty seventh of November in the year of 1871. His earthly remains lie buried in the Zion Cemetery near Donnellson. The date on which the rest of the party returned home is not known, nor could we find any record of it. It is possible that the information might be found amongst old family records that we did not have access to.

Numerous other trips were made by various persons who all had the same thought in mind, the purchasing of suitable land upon which to build their homes and make their livelihood. These trips took them through

parts of Texas, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado and Iowa. Several years later, they made some trips to Oklahoma, California, Washington and Oregon.

On one such occasion, Christian Krehbiel and John A. Ruth were delegated to accompany such a group and act as interpreters. Inasmuch that they were members of the Summerfield Mennonite Church, and among those who were looking for land, they welcomed this golden opportunity and used it to an advantage by acting as interpreters for the group and at the same time they surveyed the area for sites that might interest some of their own group.

Christian Krehbiel was much impressed by the good land in the vicinity of Halstead. This was confirmed by him on a later trip, and also by other members of the Summerfield Church who had travelled in the West to seek some suitable land about this same time.

The recommendations of these people prompted the Congregation to appoint a group of delegates for the purpose of going to Kansas to examine the lands more thoroughly and if they proved to be according to the reports received, to enter into a provisional agreement for acquiring the necessary acreage. Among the delegates were Jacob Leisy, David C. Ruth, Christian Krehbiel, Abraham Stauffer and David Lehmann.

The party left Summerfield by rail on October the eighth, 1873 with the railroad providing free transportation for the entire group. At Topeka, the Sante Fe Railroad assigned a man to act as their conductor and took them to Emporia by rail. After they made an examination of the land in this area, they proceeded toward Halstead, partly by rail and partly by wagon. Not being satisfied with the terrain they were going through, they continued on to Newton, the main railroad station along the way. From here they drove to the Moundridge area, then back to Newton and then to the Halstead area, making an examination of the land in each location. On returning to Topeka they made a preliminary agreement with the agent of the Sante Fe

for the purchase of extensive tracts of land in four Townships. The group arrived at home in Summerfield on the twenty sixth day of October 1873, with all of them in good health and thankful to God for his care and guidance.

After quite a lot of correspondence between this land agent for the Sante Fe and Christian Krehbiel, the agent himself came to Summerfield in December of 1873 and the deal was closed in the Mennonite Church of Summerfield, Illinois. The price of this land was in a range of about \$2.00 to \$15.00 an acre, depending upon factors that had impressed the appraisers. In the early part of January 1874, a group of about thirty men from the Summerfield and some of the Iowa Congregations went to Halstead by rail, for the sole purpose of selecting their individual lands.

In the fall of the year of 1874, John W. Ruth and Daniel Haury made a trip to Kansas to break prairie and build small houses on their farms located north of Halstead and returned home later in the year for the purpose of moving their families to Kansas.

#### THE MIGRATION TO KANSAS

The migration from Summerfield to Kansas began in the year of 1875. There were numerous other families who moved there during this same period, either from the Summerfield area or those who came through there on their way from previous locations in some of the Eastern States while others came directly from their homes in various parts of Europe.

Inasmuch as the data we are compiling covers only the descendants of the Gerhard Ruth--Elizabeth Rupp family, we have listed only the names of persons who belong on the genealogy. The dates given are derived from family records that were available and from the information found through research work. To the best of our knowledge, the dates are correct, or as near thereto that we could establish from family data.



THE ROSTER OF FAMILIES MOVING TO KANSAS

IN FEBRUARY OF THE YEAR OF 1875

Valentine Krehbiel and family.  
Jacob Ernest Ruth and family,  
Daniel Ruth and family.  
John W. Ruth and family.  
Elizabeth Ruth, widow of Johannes Ruth.  
Henry B. Ruth, Single.  
Christian Krehbiel.

IN MARCH OF THE YEAR OF 1879

Christian Krehbiel's wife and family.  
Katherine Ruth Krehbiel, widow of Johannes  
Krehbiel, and her family.  
David Lehmann and family.  
David C. Ruth and family.

IN THE YEAR OF 1880

Daniel Eymann and family. From Iowa.

IN THE YEAR OF 1884

John A. Ruth and family.

IN THE YEAR OF 1885

Henry G. Ruth and family.  
Gerhard B. Ruth and family.

THE OKLAHOMA LAND RUN

About the last move made by someone in our family that would give him the title of Pioneer was made by Jacob M. Pletscher and Reverend J. S. Krehbiel, who, with three other Mennonites, Henry A. Lehmann, Henry Schmutz and John Horsch were in the lineup to make a run for homesteads when that part of Oklahoma known as the Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indian Reservation was opened for settlement by white people at noon on the nineteenth of April in the year of 1892. This group settled in and near what is now Geary, Oklahoma.

Six years later, Oscar Peter Ruth moved to Geary, married and established his home and lived there for the remaining years of his life.

THE SCATTERING OF THE FAMILY

This was, by no means, the last of the migrations of the various branches and descendants of the Ruth family. From their Summerfield and Kansas locations, some of them went to Oklahoma, Nebraska, California, Colorado, Washington and Oregon. A few of them moved to Canada to settle in Gretna, Manitoba. From these locations the descendants have scattered through the various states of the Union. We show the location of each descendant at the time these records were being compiled but due to the rapid rate at which business establishments are merging and opening new plants in various parts of the country, many of the addresses are already outdated, even as this is being written.

Years ago it was nothing unusual for a young man to be employed by an organization and spend the rest of his life in that same area, in some cases, it was not unusual to see the second or third generation of the same family work for the same organization.

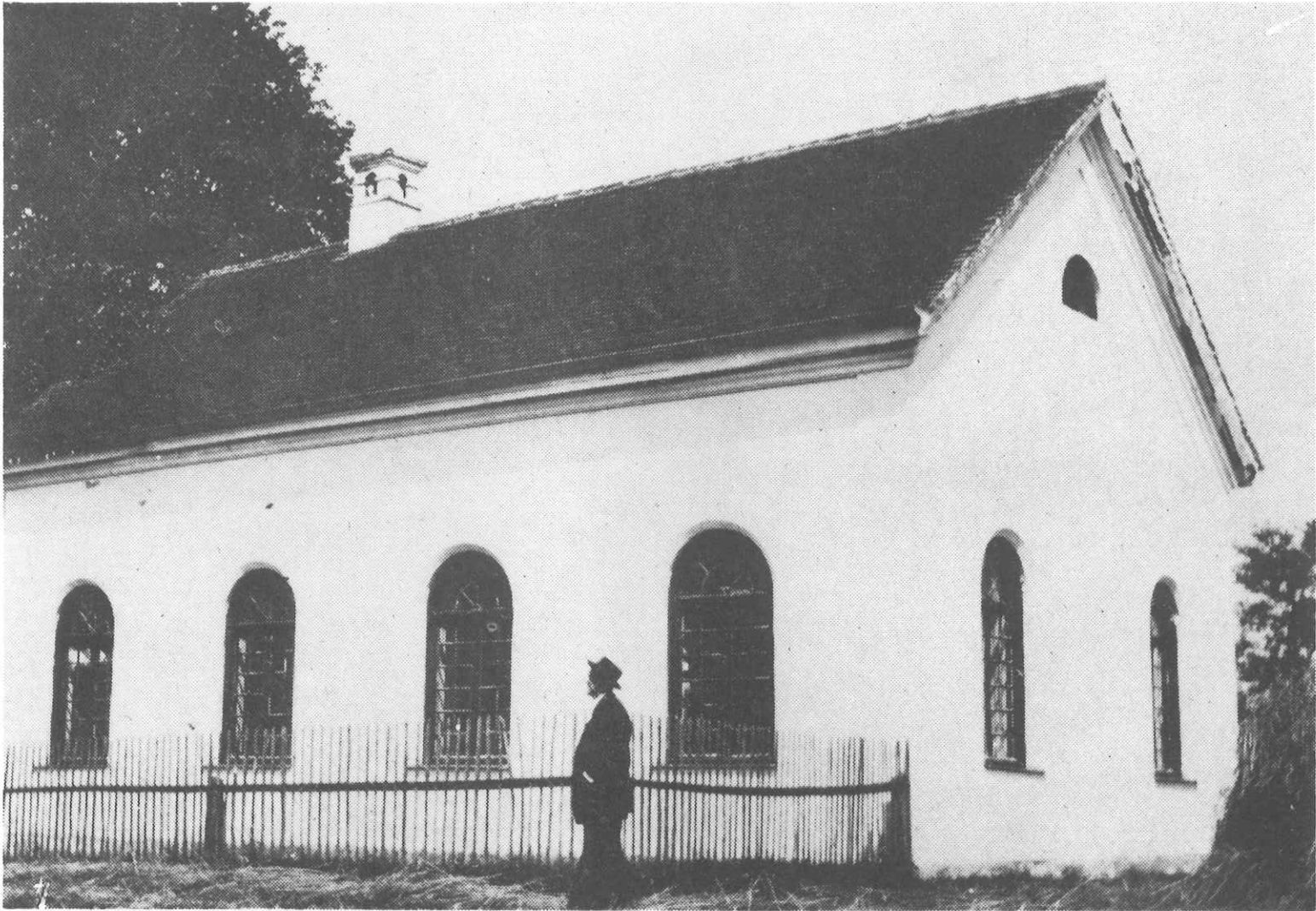
Present day business procedure is such that Plant personnel is transferred from one plant location to another with little or no thought given with respect to the inconvenience or hardship it might create for the employee and his family. He must decide whether or not to break up his home and go where his work is or sever his connections with the company and try to find suitable employment in the area in which he has established his home.

Thus we close the family history which covers the period of from 1702 to 1954 inclusive, a little over two and one half centuries. It is doubtful if any of our descendants will ever bring the entire genealogy up to their time at some future date because of it's size. It therefore becomes a challenge to someone in each of the separate branches to bring the genealogy and history up to their time in the future.

July 14, 1955.

By Albert J. Ruth.

A Supplement Eichstock Church







## THE RUTH FAMILY IN ILLINOIS

## PREFACE

The following article is written for the purpose of enlightening the descendants of this family on a number of subjects and incidents in connection with the migration of the family into Saint Clair County, Illinois from the Kingdom of Bavaria in Europe.

It contains information on the following; How the group happened to pick this area, some data on the early history of Saint Clair County, some history of the town of Summerfield and some data on the several branches of the Ruth family that were in the area in those days and of those that are located in the area at the present time.

One odd thing about the town is that we found no information or evidence relative to how the founders happened to pick the name "Summerfield".

We have added a little modern touch in connection with how things have changed during the years and it is our sincere wish that the article will be just as informative and interesting to you in reading it as it was for us while doing the research work on it.

When a person takes into consideration the fact that this group of families lived in Europe and came to America to go directly to one certain section of Saint Clair County in the State of Illinois, without the necessity of making inquiry as to the location of land available to immigrants, one wonders how the group happened to decide upon this particular area, not being the least bit familiar with this country.

We find that the entire trip was well planned and organized for quite some time before they started on their long journey. Jacob Leisy, whose relationship with the group is established in the genealogy, came to America in the year of 1845 and spent quite a bit of time on a scouting trip through the country in an effort to find a suitable location for the group. He found what he termed the ideal location, the central point of which is now Summerfield, Illinois and took in an area covering approximately a ten mile radius. After he was satisfied in his own mind that this was an ideal place for the group, he returned to his own home in Bavaria and induced many others to join him in the trek to a new home in America.

The religious persecution of these people was the cause of the many migrations of these families and the great political revolution that covered most of Europe in the year of 1848 was the final inducement needed to make the decision to migrate to America a reality.

Jacob Leisy, having made the trip before, was the leader of this group and to give you an idea of how thorough the trip was organized we will give a short resume, the entire voyage being covered in detail in another section of the genealogy.

The trip was begun from the old Ruth Homestead in Eichstock, Bavaria on the twenty-eighth day of May, 1852 by two Ruth families, Johannes and the Reverend David, crossing Bavaria and Germany to the Rhine, up the Rhine to the city of Köln, from thence to Paris and Le Harve by train. At Le Harve they boarded ship for America. Members of the group were added along the way, the last ones joining them at Worms. There were over seventy people in the group. Several other families had intended to go with this same group but were not quite ready and had to take a ship that was to sail about four weeks later. The group travelled en masse to Peoria, Illinois. Here they learned that cholera had reached the epidemic stage in the area they had intended to settle. The scouting trip made seven years previously by Jacob Leisy now became an asset for he knew that a Krehbiel family had already established a home in Lee County, Iowa, on land that was opened to white settlers in 1833. The group made a change in its plans and decided to go to Iowa. The group split into three sections, each of which took a different route, the detailed stories of which are given in another section of the genealogy. They made their first home in West Point, Lee County, Iowa but kept in close touch with Saint Clair County. When an opportunity presented itself, one or more families would buy land there and move to Illinois, the place of their original choice. The families grew in size and conditions were such that they could not all get a home of their own in this area so they started out to find homes in newly opened homesteading lands and this move naturally scattered them to many different states and locations.

#### EARLY HISTORY OF SAINT CLAIR COUNTY

Saint Clair County, Illinois was organized on the twenty-seventh of April in the year of 1790 and was named after General Arthur Saint Clair, a soldier in

the Revolutionary War. It was the first County to be organized within the territory comprised in the present State of Illinois.

The entire region of lands west of the Ohio River was first placed under civil jurisdiction under the name of Illinois Country. In 1801 it comprehended an area covering the entire region within the present State of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin and part of Minnesota plus the State of Illinois itself. This was the largest County in the entire world.

The first land grant found recorded in the County was made to Charles Danie on the tenth of May, 1722.

Saint Clair County was finally set off by an act of the Virginia House of Delegates in the month of October in 1778 by an order of Governor Arthur Saint Clair on a visit he made to this part of the country a few months after the capture of Fort Kaskaskia by George Rogers Clark.

#### RIDGE PRAIRIE

Ridge Prairie comprised an area about two miles west of Ofallon, Illinois.

In 1801 and 1802 some settlements were made west and south of Belleville among which we find families of Abraham Eymann, William Miller and Daniel Stookey that came here from Pennsylvania and were excellent citizens.

Ridge Prairie was first settled in 1802 and among the early comers was the Reverend David Badgeley who founded the first Baptist church located in Illinois about 1796. About this time he made a trip back east and influenced his sons and a number of others to go back to Saint Clair County with him. Among them were more Eymanns and Millers. These well watered timber and prairie lands of this area were quickly settled by many pioneering families who helped build up this area and most surely deserve more than little note. Quite a number of our group lived in this area among



which we find such family names as Pletscher, Berger and Baer.

#### SUMMERFIELD

The Summerfield area was first settled in 1806. The town itself sprang into being some forty-eight years later with the building of the first railroad in that section.

It was known as the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad and was incorporated as early as 1848. It later was changed to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

About 1850 a movement was started to bring in the railroad from the Ohio River at Cincinnati and cross Indiana and Illinois to Saint Louis. Saint Louis was then the great city of the west and was known as the Gateway of the West at that time. It was there that the old Steamboats moved up the Mississippi River to the Missouri River and up the Missouri to Westport Landing, now Kansas City, from here wagon trains set out across the great western plains to Oregon and to the gold fields of California.

At the time they were contemplating building this railroad it was the custom of the State of Illinois to grant funds and lands to the builders as an added inducement to develop the railroads and build them across the State but the law was specific in stating that State funds could not be used to build a railroad which ended at or beyond the boundary or within twenty miles of its border. Under this provision of the law it was impossible for the builders to obtain the necessary State aid to complete the railroad. In order that the road might be built across the State to Illinois Town, now East Saint Louis, the citizens of Saint Louis created a building fund amounting to several hundred thousand dollars and gave it to the builders so they could complete the project. In 1854 the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad was built across the prairies of Illinois to tap the flow of commerce

which previously passed by Steamboat up and down the Mississippi and went to New Orleans or by way of the city of Cairo and the Ohio River to the east. At the time there was but one railroad across Illinois, the Alton Railroad, running from Chicago to Springfield and later it was extended from Springfield to Alton.

The town site area of Summerfield was laid out by Thomas Casad and B. T. Cavanaugh. It was all covered with timber and underbrush. Samuel Casad built the first frame building. It was a one story structure and he used one of its rooms for a store. He was not only the first resident and merchant of the town but also the first postmaster. Shortly thereafter houses were built by John Wakefield, the Reverend Thornton Peoples and a Doctor Walker, the first doctor of the community.

Among the first settlers in Summerfield, we find; Henry Ruth, Gerhard and Jacob Vogt, Jacob Schuster, Joseph R. Padfield, Charles Wakefield, Joseph Trenz, John M. Casad, Doctor A. W. Casad, George Bumb, John Schupp, Charles E. Dew, S. P. Dew, George Peters and Julius Winkler.

In the year of 1854 a large steam operated flour mill was erected by Casad, Wakefield and Company and a blacksmith shop was opened and the following year homes and stores were being erected in numbers.

In 1856, Franz Hahn came to Summerfield with his family and built and operated a Cooper Shop.

In 1857 the Methodist Episcopalians erected a brick church in Summerfield. This was the continuation of the old Union Grove church built about two miles to the south and east of town. It first was a log cabin that was built about 1820. Some outlaws burned it to the ground and it was replaced by a brick building.

In 1858 the Mennonites built a brick church 30 X 45 feet, located just south of town. It was built at a cost of \$1,600.00 and was dedicated on the twenty-third of January, 1859. The congregation outgrew the church and bought the old Methodist Episcopal church

in town, razed the old church and used the bricks to build a tower onto the new one. The Mennonites used to hold services at the homes of members until they were able to build a church. The first services were held in the home of John Kraemer on April 13, 1856. This was the home located one quarter mile north of the Ruth School. This old home was razed in 1956 and a new one was built on the same location. To clarify the relationship or connection of John Kraemer with the Ruth family it might be well to add here that it was the John Kraemer who married Barbara Strohm Ruth the widow of Jacob Ruth, who passed away in Bavaria. After she passed on in 1864, he remarried, this time to Barbara Schowalter Strohm, widow of Peter Strohm. Full details can be found in the genealogy.

In 1864 the Methodists built their church and the Evangelicals followed with theirs one year later in 1865. The Mennonite and Evangelical churches are the only two congregations that exist in the town today.

In 1859 Conrad Eisenmayer bought and enlarged the mill that was built by Casad, Wakefield and Company. This was a steam operated mill and used steel rolls to crush the grain instead of the old style grinding stones. It was an up-to-date mill in its time and it employed as many as thirty-five men. As the prairies were settled and turned into prosperous farms, which in turn increased the business of the flour mill and most of the flour that was milled there was shipped to the eastern sea-board over the new railroad and exported to Europe. When the mill first started its operations, oxen were used to move the empty and the loaded cars to and from the mill to the main line of the railroad.

The first school in Summerfield was a private one and was started in 1856. It was taught by Miss Lucy E. Dew. The first public school was erected in 1860. It was a one story brick building 36 X 40 with two rooms. It was built at a cost of \$4,000.00. In 1874 a two story brick building 40 X 60 was erected at a

cost of \$10,500. After that the old school building was used as a parochial school. The Mennonites used it during the summer months as a German school. The old building was razed about 1949 and the newer one was razed in 1959 and is replaced with a modern type building.

Summerfield was incorporated as a village in the year of 1866. In the year of 1880 it had a total of 1,676 inhabitants.

We find that it contained the following business establishments in the year of 1880.

5 General Stores;

Jacob E. Krehbiel, Peter Kullman, J. Winkler,  
S. R. Whitaker, E. Pausch and brother.

1 Drug Store;

W. B. Taggert.

2 Doctors;

J. H. Hewitt and J. A. Close.

1 Bakery;

William Bloch.

1 Hardware Store;

Jacob Braundel.

3 Shoe Shops;

Louis Techlenberg, Jacob Seitz and  
Charles Antoine.

3 Hotels;

Sewell House, Prairie House, Joseph Trenz, Prop.  
Tremont House, John Miller, Prop.

3 Blacksmith Shops;

George Bumb, Frank Grimm Senior and  
Frank Grimm Junior.

2 Wagon Shops;

Philip Bauchenz, Louis Landwehr.

1 Barber Shop;

Jacob Schuster Junior.

1 Harness Shop;

Christian Troost.

3 Saloons;

A. Lerch, T. McDonald and Philip Fisher.

At one time there were two coal mines, one shaft was sunk some time after 1870 but the coal veins had proven to be too shallow. A broom factory was listed as an establishment in the town at one time.

In the year of 1880 Henry Ruth and Whitaker built an elevator on the south side of the railroad tracks and just a little east of the railroad depot. It was capable of handling all sorts of grain and it had a capacity of 5000 bushels. Valentine Eicher completed his feed mill and placed it in operation about 1895.

About 1870 David B. Ruth moved onto the Ruth farm located just north of town where he operated a house to house milk route in town. Later on they sold milk in Trenton, Illinois.

It was about 1874 when the Sante Fe Railroad was contemplating building across the Kansas plains and were looking for pioneer settlers to buy land along their right of way. Since a lot of the relatives had hopes of owning their own homes and land was either unable to get or it was too high in price so quite a few of them investigated the possibility of going to Kansas to buy land and make their new home there.

We find that in 1874 that John Lehmann, Jacob and John Dettweiler, John Kuehny and Christian Schmutz went to Kansas to make their new homes.

In the spring of 1875 another group left to go to the same area and among them we find; Jacob E. Ruth, John W. Ruth, Daniel Ruth, Elizabeth Ruth, Valentine Krehbiel, John Haury, Daniel Haury, Daniel Bachmann, Peter Bartel and several other families.

From the period of 1894 to 1897 several families went to Oklahoma to homestead on newly opened land. Shortly thereafter some moved west into Nebraska and made their new homes there.

Summerfield was once a good flourishing town. It appears that when the town first started there were always enough industrious people who worked hard and tried to help the town advance and when they decided to leave the area and explore new horizons they left

the work to some energetic and industrious people in town or some new settlers who moved in to give it an extra boost on its way to the top. But the period of from 1894 to about 1905 had the opposite effect. The energetic and industrious people left in such large numbers and no one came in to take their place, this along with the fact that there was too much of a gap between the ages of the older generation reaching an age of retirement and the younger generation nearing the age of maturity. Some of the shop owners did not have any descendants to follow in their footsteps.

In checking over the business establishments that were located in Summerfield in 1880 we find that the mill, cooper shop, broom factory, furniture factory and two coal mines had already gone out of business.

During my own lifetime in the area I can remember the passing of the following; the Braundel Hardware Store and Tin Shop, the General Stores of John Adams and John Pier, the Joseph Kieth Candy Store and Ice-cream Parlor, he also enlarged his building and made it into a Hotel. Reinhardt's Blacksmith Shop that had so much business that he had to have help during the plowing season to keep the plow shares sharp. I made many trips to his shop with a horse and buggy to get the newly sharpened shares and leave him some dulled ones. He sharpened shares for the farmers for miles around and often had to work until one or two in the morning to keep up with his work. The Monken General Store and Implement Company, handling groceries, all sorts of general merchandise and farm implements and for a time, even operated a filling station, selling gasoline and oil to the automobile owners. The store discontinued selling gasoline and oil and later gave up the implement business, concentrating on general merchandise. Some years later it was destroyed by a fire. It was rebuilt but on a much smaller scale. It was in the path of the 1956 tornado and had its roof badly damaged. The damage was repaired and the store is still in business at this writing. The Benjamin



and Adolph Baer Undertaking, Furniture Store and the Lumber Yard. This store also sold gasolines and oils to the automobile owner for a time. In the undertaking line they owned one of the old style black horse drawn hearses that were built by the carriage makers in those days. I do not recall the three shoe shops. The only one I recall is the one that was connected with the Haury Harness and Saddle Shop. As tractors and automobiles displaced the horses, the demand for new harness and saddles, along with the repairing of the same, dwindled to a point where the shop had to close and the shoe shop disappeared along with it a short time thereafter. The Philip Bauchenz Wagon and Buggy Shop from which Mr. Bauchenz sold many buggies and wagons and repaired and repainted many of those that he sold in prior years. Here again we find that there was no new young blood, by family offspring or otherwise, to keep abreast of these changing times, with a net result that the establishment closed its doors. The building stood idle and forsaken for some time until it was remodelled into a funeral home and it is being used as such at this writing.

The building which housed the old Adams store was a huge three story brick structure. The store was on the ground floor, living quarters were on the second and the third contained rooms and a hall for lodges or other types of entertainment. The building became an eyesore due to lack of repairs and deteriorated so rapidly that one could even term it hazardous to traffic. On a peaceful and serene night it took it upon itself to collapse into a pile of rubble. While this incident in itself did not cause much concern, the fact that Mr. Adams could not be located on that morning did. No one was real sure of the whereabouts of Mr. Adams, was he away on one of his usual trips, or was he buried in the rubble? With some reference to his trips, he was wont to visit some one in Saint Louis and stay there an indefinite period and return to his home in Summerfield. (It is said that he used

to walk both ways.) It turned out that he was on one of his trips and returned some time after the building had collapsed. The rubble was cleared away and a garage and filling station erected on the corner and it was operated by Elmer Pier.

#### THE UPWARD TREND

For a long time the population of Summerfield was less than two hundred and forty inhabitants. It did not seem to change much from that figure for a long time. A few new homes were built around 1935 so this was a starter. Later, when we were involved in World War II and Scott Air Base started a huge project and needed a large number of civilians for man power, it created a serious housing shortage. People began to rent homes until every house that was available was filled. A contractor moved in and started a housing project and built some homes in what was once a cow pasture. The population of the town was increasing, everything seemed to be on the upward trend until on a peaceful night in the month of February, a tornado struck in the southern half of the town.

#### DAMAGE OF THE TORNADO

Summerfield celebrated its centennial year in the summer of 1954. Quite a number of the original homes were still in use and everything seemed so calm and serene until the night of February the twenty-fourth 1956 about one o'clock in the morning when a tornado came in from the southwest and tore its way through the southern half of the town doing extensive damage to many old homes among which were the homes of some of the oldtimers, such as Christian Krehbiel, Haury, Widicus and many others. The Mennonite church was in the path of the storm and had its roof blown off and it received quite a bit of damage from water. It was rebuilt shortly after the tornado but its appearance

has changed. It used to have brick gables but due to their being damaged, they were removed and replaced with wood. Many of the damaged homes have since been replaced and most of the evidence of the tornado has been removed but anyone who knew the town before the tornado struck, can see how it has affected the town and how its appearance has been changed.

It is said that its low rate of fatality and few injuries can be attributed to the fact that it came at night when everybody was asleep. It all happened so fast that by the time they became aware of what was occurring at the time, the storm had already done its damage and had passed by.

Many people lost their homes and had to find some temporary shelter until their homes could be rebuilt and still others were financially unable to rebuild. They had to find shelter among relatives or friends in neighboring towns and many of them never did come back to Summerfield so the town lost a number of its inhabitants due to the unfortunate incident.

#### THE CHANGING TIMES

We have covered quite a few of the major changes that have occurred since the town was started, but by no means all of them. We have intended to show that a business establishment or person must keep abreast of the changing times and a municipality must offer them an inducement or the opportunity will pass you by and leave you by the wayside. Even the farmer has had to keep himself posted on all of the changes in farm equipment and methods of operation to keep from operating at a loss. Many changes have occurred since the writer was a youngster. Transportation, by horse and buggy or horses and wagon. Farm implements were all horse drawn. We progressed from walking plow and walking cultivator to the riding type. Now we use an automobile for personal transportation and the truck for farm products. At this writing some trucks even

come equipped with an automatic unloader. All of the farm machinery is tractor drawn and the capacity of each has been greatly increased. In place of the old threshing rig we have the tractor drawn combine that cuts and threshes the grain in one operation, it can also automatically elevate the threshed grain into a truck that can be either driven or drawn alongside the combine. Horses have all but disappeared, about the only places you see them now is on a dude ranch or at a race track. Before they get totally extinct, I hope that someone has foresight enough to put some of them in a Zoo.

#### THE PRESENT RUTH DESCENDANTS IN THE AREA

At one time there were six branches of the Ruth family in the area, three direct lineages and three distaff lineages.

The direct lineage group were;

The Jacob Ruth-Barbara Strohm branch.

The Johannes Ruth-Elizabeth Dettweiler branch.

The David Ruth-Katherine Strohm branch.

The distaff lineage group were;

The Marie Ruth-John Weber branch.

The Veronica Ruth-Jacob Dahlem branch.

The Susanna Ruth-Franz Hahn branch.

At the present time there are only three branches of the family in the area, one of direct lineage and two of distaff lineage. The direct lineage is on the Jacob Ruth-Barbara Strohm branch, the distaff on the Marie Ruth-John Weber and Veronica Ruth-Jacob Dahlem branches. Since the data on the descendants of these branches can be found in the genealogy section, none of the details are given here. We have endeavoured to make the records as complete as possible.

July 12, 1957.

By Albert J. Ruth.





THE GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONS

OF THE

RUTH LAND

AND

THE RUTH HOME IN MASCOUTAH TOWNSHIP  
(JOHN KRAEMER)

A SHORT RUN DOWN OF THE TITLE

THE SOUTH EAST ONE QUARTER  
OF SECTION TWO TOWNSHIP ONE NORTH RANGE SIX WEST  
OF THE THIRD PRINCIPLE MERIDIAN

Land surveyed by Wm. Rector, D. S. on July 26, 1813.  
Certified on June 16, 1814.

CERTIFICATE OF ENTRY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO WILLIAM M. MOORE  
Dated August 5, 1837.

For the east one half of the south east one quarter  
of section No. 2 in Township 1 north range 6 west of  
the third principle meridian.

CERTIFIED BY JESSE K. DUBOIS: AUDITOR,  
April 15, 1838.

WILLIAM M. MOORE TO SEVIER ROBERTS  
Warranty deed dated March 4, 1852.

Recorded June 14, 1853.  
Book F-2 on page 492.  
The south east one quarter of section No. 2 in  
Township 1 north range 6 west of the third  
principle meridian.  
for \$1,600.00.

SEVIER ROBERTS TO JOHN KRAEMER  
Warranty deed dated April 18, 1856  
Recorded April 21, 1856.  
Book F-2 on page 208.  
The south east one quarter of section No. 2 in  
Township 1 north range 6 west of the third  
principle meridian.  
for \$2,900.00.

JOHN KRAEMER TO DAVID B. RUTH  
Warranty deed dated March 24, 1859  
Recorded April 19, 1859.  
Book Y-2 on page 372.  
For the east one half of the south east one quarter  
of section No. 2 in Township 1 north range 6 west of  
the third principle meridian.  
for \$1,600.00.

JOHN KRAEMER TO PETER RUTH AND VALENTINE KREHBIEL  
Warranty deed dated September 23, 1862.  
Recorded October 9, 1862.  
Book )-3 on page 305.  
For the west one half of the south east one quarter  
of section No. 2 in Township 1 north range 6 west of  
the third principle meridian.  
and  
30 acres out of the north end of  
the east one half of the south west one quarter  
of section No. 2 in Township 1 north range  
6 west of the third principle meridian.  
for \$6,475.00.  
Acknowledged before Henry Ruth, Notary Public.

QUIT CLAIM DEED ON THE FOREGOING  
VALENTINE KREHBIEL TO PETER RUTH  
Quit claim deed dated March 3, 1874.  
Recorded March 23, 1874.  
for \$1,000.00.  
Acknowledged before Henry Ruth, Notary Public.

PETER B. RUTH TO DAVID B. RUTH  
Warranty deed dated March 8, 1892.  
Recorded March 9, 1892.  
Book 225 on page 505.  
For the west one half of the south east one quarter  
of section No. 2 in Township 1 north range 6 west of  
the third principle meridian.  
30 acres out of the north end of  
the east one half of the south west one quarter  
of section No. 2 in Township 1 north range  
6 west of the third principle meridian.  
for \$8,000.00.

CERTIFICATE OF ENTRY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO ALFRED PYLE  
Dated November 27, 1863.  
For the north west one quarter of section No. 11 in  
Township 1 north range 6 west of the third principle  
meridian.

ANN PYLE, DAUGHTER, HEIR TO TRACT IN SHARE NO. 4  
Consisting of the west one half of the north east  
one quarter of section No. 11.  
The south west part of the north one half of the  
north west one quarter of section No. 7,  
containing 25 acres, more, or less.  
Part of the west end of the west one half of the  
north east one quarter of section No. 9,  
containing 10 acres, more, or less.  
All of the above in Township 1 north range 6 west  
of the third principle meridian.

ANN PYLE TO DAVID B. RUTH  
Warranty deed dated May 12, 1865.  
Recorded June 3, 1865.  
Book C-4 on page 617  
All of the above listed property in share No. 4.  
For \$5,750.00.

BENJAMIN HYPES TO JOHN KRAEMER  
Warranty deed dated May 1, 1855.  
Recorded on May 19, 1855.  
For the east one half of the south west one quarter  
of section No. 2 in Township 1 north range 6 west of  
the third principle meridian.  
For \$1,200.00.

PHILIP MALLRICH TO DAVID B. RUTH  
Warranty deed dated November 14, 1894.  
Recorded November 15, 1894.  
Book 242 on page 242  
Part of the east one half of the south west one  
quarter of section No. 2 Township 1 north range  
6 west of the third principle meridian.  
50 acres out of the south end.  
For \$3,500.00.

DISPOSITION MADE OF THE FARM LANDS AND  
THE OWNERSHIP AT THIS WRITING

David B. Ruth sold the two tracts of land, one in  
section No. 7 containing 25 acres and one in section  
No. 9 containing 10 acres, because it was not close  
enough to his other land. At the time he bought the  
50 acres from Philip Mallrich, he sold a like amount  
to Philip Mallrich. This 50 acres was taken from the  
south end of the west one half of the north east one  
quarter of section No. 11. This amounted to an even  
exchange of property and was of an advantage to both  
parties because it placed their land closer to their  
own respective homes.

David B. Ruth now owned a total of 367 1/4 acres  
of land, 270 acres in Mascoutah Township and 97 1/4  
acres in Section No. 22 in Lebanon Township. He also  
had three homes on this land, two in Mascoutah Town-  
ship and one in Lebanon Township.

The farm north of Summerfield was considered the  
home farm by David B. Ruth.

He willed the land to his sons and daughters. The  
farm north of Summerfield was called the home farm.  
It was divided between David S. and John E.. John E.  
later sold his share to David S.. The farm is now in  
the hands of the heirs of David S. Ruth.

The home and land in the north west one quarter  
of the south east one quarter was given to Henry A..  
The north east one quarter of the south west one  
quarter was given to Lizzie B.. Henry A. farmed this  
land and it later was sold to Fred Koebel.

The south east one quarter of the south west one  
quarter was given to Lydia. She later sold it to Joe  
Meyer.

The south west one quarter of the south east one  
quarter was given to Katie. This land reverted back  
to the estate and later was sold to John H. Dagit.

The north east one quarter of the south east one  
quarter was given to Samuel D., who later sold it to  
Jacob H..

The south east one quarter of the south east one  
quarter was given to Jacob H.. The house was located  
on this land. He also was given the option on the 30  
acres in the north end of the north west one quarter  
of the north east one quarter which he took up.

The farm of Jacob H., consisted of the following;  
the east one half of the south east one quarter and  
30 acres out of the north end of the north west one  
quarter, making a total of 110 acres of land.

This farm went to his heirs and all of the shares  
were bought by Henry J., who owns and operates it at  
this writing.

July 12, 1958

By Albert J. Ruth.





UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF SAINT CLAIR

At the March term of the Circuit Court within and  
for the County of Saint Clair and State of Illinois  
A. D. 1859 on the second Saturday 26th. of March.

DAVID B. RUTH  
A Native of the Kingdom of Bavaria

Comes now into the Court and presents his petition  
to be a citizen of the United States of America and  
upon proof of the allegations in the petition set  
forth and he taking in open Court the Oath of Natur-  
alization, the said

DAVID B. RUTH  
is  
admitted a citizen of the United States of America  
State of Illinois and County of Saint Clair.

I, William S. Thomas, Clerk of the Circuit Court  
within and for the County of Saint Clair and State  
of Illinois do hereby certify the foregoing to be a  
correct and complete copy of the entry in relation  
to the Naturalization of DAVID B. RUTH as the same  
appears on the record in my office.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto signed my  
name and affixed the seal of the said Court at Bell-  
ville Illinois. This 26th. Day of March A. D. 1859.  
William S. Thomas, Clerk.

At the right is a copy of the naturalization papers  
of  
DAVID B. RUTH  
as recorded in the office of the  
Clerk of the Circuit Court within and for  
the County of Saint Clair and State of Illinois  
in the City of Belleville.



THE DAVID RUTH HOME  
LOCATED NORTH OF SUMMERFIELD

On the tenth of March in 1859 Reverend David Ruth left his home in Franklin Prairie, Iowa and went to Summerfield, Illinois for the purpose of buying some farm land. He found a place and negotiations for it had progressed to the point where it was a certainty the deal would be closed. In fact, he was so sure of it that he purchased four lots in town on March 22, 1859 for \$140.00. These lots were number 4, 7, 9 and 10 and all of them were located in Block 27. A frame house was erected on lot number 4 and it is still in use as a residence at this writing. Philip Bauchenz and his wife lived in it for a long time. About 1944 it was purchased by Mrs. Mary S. Ruth, the widow of Jacob H. Ruth, who made it her home until she passed away in October 1946. It was sold on a later date.

After having completed his business, the Reverend David Ruth returned to his home in Iowa, arriving on the 24th. of March. In May, 1859 Christian Krehbiel, with the sanction of Reverend David Ruth, left for Summerfield, Illinois to buy some land. He purchased 180 acres, ten of which was in timber for \$3,150.00. All of the land was purchased from Mr. Wakefield. It included the land for which Reverend David Ruth made negotiations in March. Being a son-in-law, Christian Krehbiel was given power of attorney to complete the deal. This Ruth Home consisted of an immense two and one half story frame house with many rooms, several outbuildings, a large number of fruit trees of many varieties and ninety seven and one quarter acres of land. It is one of three homes that has quite a bit of Ruth Family History connected with it. The first owner in the Ruth line was Reverend David Ruth. Then about 1868 it was purchased by David B. Ruth and has

come down two generations since then, namely; to his son, David S. Ruth and then to his surviving heirs, two sons, Herbert and Arthur and one daughter, Ella.

It was on the thirteenth day of March, 1860 that John Lehmann and Christian Krehbiel, sons-in-law of Reverend David Ruth, left their homes in Iowa to go to Summerfield, Illinois to take charge of the Ruth home. Since that time it has housed many descendants of the Ruth family. At this time it would be almost impossible to make a complete list of all of them.

With further reference to the house we might give a more detailed description of it.

At the rear of the house was a one story section of frame construction, consisting of two rooms, one large one and one small one. It had a porch running the full length of this building. The large room was used for a kitchen and living quarters and the small one for sleeping. The two and one half story section was added on a later date. This section was attached to the west wall of the one story section and it was built in such a manner that one could almost say it was two separate homes in juxtaposition. The top one half story was partially completed and was no doubt, used for extra sleeping quarters. Since the families of that period were quite large and from research we find that there were one or more families living in it at one time or another and they had the occasions to make good use of this extra room.

Having been in this home many times when I was a youngster, I recall that the kitchen was located in the large room of the one story section and they had the small room converted into a pantry.

The one story section must have been built in the year of 1854 or even prior to that and the large two and one half story section added shortly thereafter.

It was there when Reverend David Ruth bought the place or he would have mentioned building it in the Ruth Family History he wrote.

July 12, 1958.

By Albert J. Ruth.

PHOTO OF THE RUTH HOME  
NORTH OF SUMMERFIELD, ILLINOIS

On the following page is a photo of the old Ruth Home taken in the year of 1898. It does not contain all of the children in the families at that time. It is said that some of them were asleep when the photo was taken.

The identity of the persons on the photo is given below.

Adults; from left to right.

Barbara Berger.  
Henry Albert Ruth.  
Amanda Ruth.  
Karl Van der Smissen.  
Reverend Carl H. F. Van der Smissen.  
Mrs. Lizzie Van der Smissen, Nee Ruth.  
Mrs. Barbara Ruth, Nee Baer.  
David Samuel Ruth.  
David B. Ruth. (grandfather David B.)  
John Edward Ruth.  
Samuel David Ruth.  
Mrs. Mary Susanna Ruth, Nee Pletscher.  
Jacob Henry Ruth.

Children; from left to right.

Alvin Van der Smissen; held by his mother.  
Alieda Van der Smissen; in front of her mother.  
Frieda Van der Smissen; in front of Alieda.  
Mary Ruth; sitting on her father's lap.  
Hilda Van der Smissen; peeking from behind her  
grandfather Ruth.  
Herbert Ruth; sitting on grandfather's lap.  
Walter S. Ruth; standing at grandfather's left.